

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the remarks herewith.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-6 are pending in this paper. Claim 7 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. No claims are amended in this paper.

The abstract is amended.

No new matter has been introduced.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,581,207 to Sumita (hereinafter, merely "Sumita") and in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,169,543 to Wehmeyer (hereinafter, merely "Wehmeyer").

III. RESPONSE TO REJECTIONS

Independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

"...searching means for searching a search-related information database for information related to said search keyword acquired by said first acquiring means;

second generating means for generating a search keyword space based on said related information retrieved by said searching means and on said search keyword." (Emphasis added)

As understood by Applicants, Sumita relates to an information filtering unit. A program content analyzing section analyzes the contents of broadcast programs in terms of video

and sound. A collation evaluation section evaluates the similarity between the analyses and a user's profile.

As understood by Applicants, Wehmeyer relates to an interface and a method for customizing program guide information containing program descriptions.

This invention is directed to providing searching results for a user. When programs are searched upon receiving a search keyword from a user, this invention generates two spaces: a content information space based on received content data and a search keyword space based on received search keyword. In contrast, Sumita generates only one space-the content information space.

The Office Action (see page 3) relies on F2 in Figure 10 of Sumita and field dictionary 147 in Figure 21 of Sumita to reject searching means for searching a search-related information database for information related to said search keyword acquired by said first acquiring means; and second generating means for generating a search keyword space based on said related information retrieved by said searching means and on said search keyword, as recited in claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that the cited portion of Sumita describes only one space that is based on content data not a received search keyword from a user.

Specifically, F2 in Figure 10 of Sumita (column 7, lines 15-20) describes "the speed recognition allows spoken words to be retrieved from the cut scenes" and "words that are high in frequency of use are selected as keywords". Applicants submit that the extracted words of Sumita are from content data and has nothing related with a search keyword sent from a user.

The field dictionary of Sumita stores "words and phrases frequently used in each field". (see column 10, lines 20-25). Applicants submit that storing words and phrases based on

their usage frequency does not disclose or suggest generating a search keyword space based on ... said search keyword, as recited in claim 1.

Applicants respectfully submit that Sumita and Wehmeyer, taken either alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the above identified features of claim 1. Specifically, nothing in either reference discloses or suggests searching means for searching a search-related information database for information related to said search keyword acquired by said first acquiring means; and second generating means for generating a search keyword space based on said related information retrieved by said searching means and on said search keyword, as recited in claim 1.

For at least the foregoing reasons Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable.

Since independent claims 5 and 6 are similar, or somewhat similar, in scope to claim 1, they are allowable.

IV. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

Similarly, because Applicants maintain that all claims are allowable for at least the reasons presented hereinabove, in the interests of brevity, this response does not comment on each and every comment made by the Examiner in the Office Action. This should not be taken

as acquiescence of the substance of those comments, and Applicants reserve the right to address such comments.

CONCLUSION

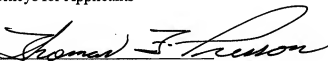
In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the references providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims are in condition for allowance and request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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